DD Community Stakeholder Informational Meeting
Tuesday, July 15, 2008

Developing Consumer-Centered Funding Models

Craig Stenning, Acting Director, MHRH, welcomed everyone to the Informational Meeting held at CPNRI in North Kingstown, RI to hear a presentation from Sarah Taub and Jon Fortune, Human Services Research Institute (HSRI), about using a national assessment tool to develop consumer-centered funding models. Members of the DD stakeholder community were invited to attend including people with disabilities, family members, providers, advocacy organizations, Office of the Attorney General and DDD staff.

Craig commented…
"This is an opportunity for the Department to communicate and share information with all stakeholders in an effort to have a transparent process so people are fully aware and understand initiatives being implemented by MHRH. We are here today to convey information to you about a pilot project that is about to begin in partnership with the Human Services Research Institute (HSRI)."

Stakeholder Participation
Craig stated that he will be establishing a **Stakeholder Advisory Committee** that will include 10-20 representatives from people with disabilities, families, advocates, providers and DDD staff. This Committee will be actively involved throughout the scope of this project to identify more specific policy goals, to provide their input and feedback on the status of activities of the project and to share information with their own constituency groups. *"This Committee will advise the department about the process, listen to the results of the assessments, share their individual thoughts, ask questions and inform others of how this is proceeding"*

The Committee will begin meeting in August and they will determine the frequency of meetings. If you are interested in participating on this Committee please send an email to Craig at CStenning@mhrh.ri.gov

Supports Intensity Scale (SIS)

This initiative will include the use of the **Supports Intensity Scale (SIS)** on approximately 500 people with disabilities randomly selected to participate to quantify their individual supports needs by collecting information/data that can be compared with data collected from other states using the SIS. The *SIS* is a nationally recognized/reliable assessment tool utilized by 14 states and 14 countries. The tool includes three sections. Section 1. **Support Needs Scale** includes six domains...

1. Home Living activities
2. Community Living Activities
3. Lifelong Learning activities
4. Employment activities
5. Health and Safety Activities
6. Social Activities

Section 2. **Supplemental Protection and Advocacy Scale** includes...

1. Protection and Advocacy Activities

Section 3. **Exceptional Medical and Behavioral Support Needs** includes...

1. Medical Supports Needed
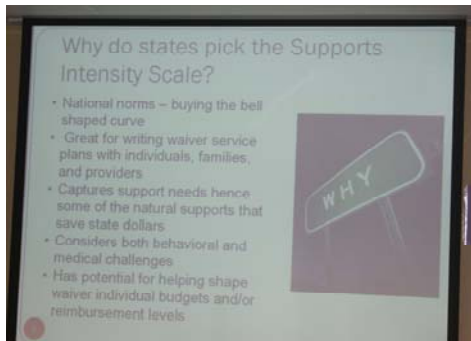2. Behavioral Supports Needed

Craig stated... *"Unlike traditional assessments that focus on deficits or the limitations of people, what I like about the SIS is that it focuses in on building upon the strengths and assets of people and what supports a person needs to live a good life in the community. It is not comfortable for families to look at deficits of someone they care about and it is not comfortable for the person either...it is much more positive to focus on an individual's strengths."*

For more information on the SIS check out the website:
http://www.siswebsite.org/index.ww

Project Purposes:

➢ Align the needs of people with disabilities with person-centered individual budget allocations by shifting away from people's limitations to a focus on an individual's support needs

➢ Increase reliability, efficiency and fairness within assessment/planning for people through the use of a nationally recognized tool

➢ Promote self-direction of individuals by empowering them to plan their own lives and live as independently as possible in their communities

➢ Establish a consistent budget/resource allocation process that can eventually apply to all people served by DDD

"*The purpose is not to cut resources and not to change eligibility criteria but to ensure we have the most equitable system possible for all people.***"**
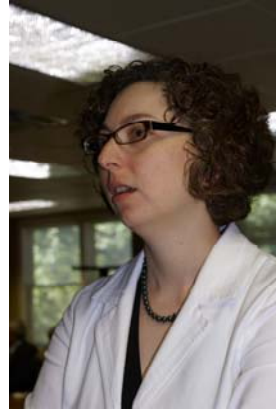
Project Outcomes

Craig commented... *"Given the limits with the resources available to the Division we need to think carefully about what I call the* **three R's***…that we are attempting to deliver the* **RIGHT SERVICES,** *to the* **RIGHT PEOPLE,** *in the* **RIGHT SETTING and TIME** *in their lives (…meaning people are getting the right level of service, from a variety of choices, with people's full participation in making decisions that affect their own personal lives.)*

We need to establish a better assessment process and rational system within DDD to allocate resources more equitably so all people will have opportunities for person-centered planning and individual budget allocations and have a system that we can all clearly understand.

We need to ensure that available resources within DDD are distributed to people effectively and efficiently and that providers are reimbursed with fair and reasonable rates consistent with the values within the system."

Today's Speakers

Jon Fortune and Sarah Taub from HSRI spoke about:
- national efforts of states to establish individual budgets and standardized payments for waiver services,
- more information about the SIS, and
- the specific components of this initiative.

Both Sarah and Jon commented on the strength of the DDD system in RI and the work already done with the use of the Personal Capacities Inventory (PCI) tool.

Jon stated that this is "*a voyage of discovery that begins today with stakeholder participation and engagement on the ground floor. We need to capture all of the good work that has already happened in RI and build upon what continues to work. We want to support and refine what is already used here and to be able to obtain information that will help to explain and clarify how you identify services people need and why you spend money specific dollar amounts on these services. Good and accurate information about services and costs is the lifeblood for all of this work.*"

To see the full Powerpoint presentation given by Sarah and Jon click here:

This article was written by MHRH staff Sue Babin.